

Joseph

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon (Family Meeting)
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 17th July 2011

Intro-

- This morning we are going to hear about someone who's hopes and dreams were shattered and then miraculously brought back to life. We are going to hear about the life of Joseph.
- Have you ever said -'It's just not fair'- well Joseph's life is very much like that. It starts with things not being fair for his brothers because he was dad's favourite, and we are going to see why:

1. His background

- *Volunteers: Do background to Joseph's birth, and why he was the favourite child- use cards for each of Jacob's sons.*
- Dad's favour was seen in the coloured coat he made for Joseph. What's one of your favourite presents?
- Vote between 1 & 10 (10 being ecstatic) how Joseph must have felt at this point in time.

Truth 1: God favours us

- Through the gospel we each have divine favour. We are each God's special child, each His 'favourite'. God has given you a precious coat. We are clothed in 'robes of righteousness'- Is 61:10.
- Our robe of righteousness refers to our 'justification' by God our Father. To be justified is to be 'declared righteous'. This means 2 things:
 - a) Forgiveness of all sins (our sin which was imputed [regarded as belonging] to us through Adam is now imputed to Christ)- Christ who knew no sin became sin for us-
 - b) Christ's righteousness is given freely to us (imputed to us). We are therefore not only considered by God to be neutral, but to be righteous- to have the righteousness of God. Justification is where Christ's righteousness is reckoned to be ours! Christ is our righteousness (1Cor 1:30), we do not have a righteousness of our own based on obedience, but the righteousness of God by faith in Christ (Phil 3:9, Rom 3:21-22); it is a free gift of righteousness (Rom 5:17).

2. His dreams

- *Show clip of Joseph King of Dreams, part where he dreams of the corn and stars bowing to him.*
- God showed Joseph something of his destiny in God.
- Vote between 1 & 10 (10 being ecstatic) how Joseph must have felt at this point in time.

Truth 2: God gives us dreams

- A dream is a desirable future in God. Godly dreams bring a sense of destiny and hope into our lives
- Having a dream keeps us on track- we know what we're building, heading towards
- Get to know God's dream for His Church in general. For this Church. For you as an individual. Look at our website to see our dreams for the church here.

3. His troubles

- *Act out the following scenes with volunteers:*
- Hated by jealous brothers. They want to kill him. Reuben suggests instead throwing him into cistern (tries to save him). Judah decides to sell him to traders going to Egypt (Reuben returns to cistern but Joseph has been sold by Judah). His coloured

coat soaked in animals blood and given to dad. A slave to Potiphar. Potiphar's wife fancies and accuses him and he is thrown into prison.

- Vote between 1 & 10 (10 being ecstatic) how Joseph must have felt at this point in time.

Truth 3: The road to our dreams isn't always easy

- We, like Joseph need to keep going through the tough times. Learn to see the bigger picture- God is sovereign. Joseph a picture, 'type' for Jesus. Jesus took the road of suffering to get to His exaltation- we share in His sufferings when we choose to do the same. 'If it's worth having it's worth fighting for'
- We learn loads in the tough times- a training ground. Joseph developed trustworthiness with tasks given to him and excelled, both in Potiphar's households and in the prison.

4. His Dreams Fulfilled

- *Dream(s)- yawn and stretch. Cow(s)- 'moo'. Egypt- Egyptian dance. Corn- 'weatabix'. Benjamin- 'right hand man' (hold up right hand). Seven- sing 'And that's a magic number'. Governor- 'Yes guvna!' (salute). 'Spies'- do 007 theme. 'True'- yyyyyeepppppeeee!!!*
- While he was in prison two men who had worked for Pharaoh, were also locked up. They both had strange dreams and Joseph told them what they meant. Later, Pharaoh had strange dreams too. No-one could tell him what they meant.
One of the men, now freed from prison, told Pharaoh about Joseph. He was sent for, and Pharaoh told him about his dreams. In one, seven fat cows came out of the River Nile, followed by seven thin cows. The thin cows then ate the fat cows. In a second dream, seven fat stalks of corn were eaten by seven thin ones. Joseph explained Pharaoh's dreams. He said there would be seven years of good harvests in Egypt, when there would be lots of food to eat. Seven years of famine would follow, when nothing would grow. He told Pharaoh that they should store corn so that they would not starve. When all this happened as Joseph had said he was made Governor of all of Egypt.
In Canaan, Jacob and his sons were starving. Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy corn from the Governor. Joseph's brothers didn't recognise him dressed as an Egyptian. They all bowed down to him and told him about their family. He said they were spies. To prove that they weren't, Joseph told them he would give them corn, but they must return with their youngest brother. Meanwhile Simeon would stay in a prison. They soon needed to go back to Egypt for more corn. They had to take Benjamin this time to prove they were not spies. They were so pleased when Joseph welcomed them and set Simeon free. On their way home with their corn a horseman came along and said they had stolen his master's silver cup. To their horror it was found in Benjamin's sack. This was part of Joseph's plan.
Joseph wanted to see what kind of people they were now. He told Benjamin that he must be his slave. Judah, the brother who had sold Joseph years ago, said, 'If you keep Benjamin, my father will die of grief. Please keep me instead.' When Joseph saw his brothers had changed, he cried with joy and revealed who he really was. He forgave them, hugged them and asked them to fetch his father. All the family moved to Egypt to be with Joseph. His dream had finally come true.
- Vote between 1 & 10 (10 being ecstatic) how Joseph must have felt at this point in time.

Truth 4: A dream come true means work to do

- As Governor of all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh Joseph had a lot of responsibility on his shoulders, but this is what the dream predicted. Fulfilled dreams and God's blessings bring increased responsibility
- Lottery winners suddenly having to make an action plan
- Being willing to step into something new. DSD- Do something different.
- As God has been with us previously, so He will continue to be with us now- trust Him in new situations.
- Bitterness will rob us of our dreams- Joseph would have not had such a blessing if he had chosen to hold on to bitterness. We too need to forgive others so that we can to enter into all that God has for us.

Summary

1. God favours us
2. God gives us dreams

3. The road to our dreams isn't always easy

4. A dream come true means work to do

- *Think about: Vote 1-10 as to how you are feeling right now.*
- The good news is God knows what He is doing. Sovereign. Even in the low points in Joseph's life the plan was still unfolding. Jigsaw puzzle. One day we will see the big picture, but for now we keep pressing on to 'take hold of that for which Christ has taken hold of us'- Phil 3:12.

Song: *King of Kings, majesty*